

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4535

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, KS, SHUM
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK MEETS WITH NDP CHAIRMAN AND ASSEMBLY
SPEAKER: DISCUSSES TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PAK CALLED IN NDP CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY SPEAKER AND DRP LEADERSHIP TO BLUE HOUSE IN THREE
SEPARATE MEETINGS, MAY 27 AND 28 TO BRIEF THEM ON HABIB/BROWN
VISIT. ESSENCE OF MESSAGE WAS THAT PRESIDENT REGRETTED U.S.
WITHDRAWAL BUT THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS DEFINITE AND KOREANS SHOULD
GET ON WITH JOB OF DEVELOPING COMPENSATORY MEASURES. PAK ALSO
TOLD YI CHOL-SUNG PRIVATELY THAT MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS WOULD
BE RELEASED IN TIME BUT NOT NOW, TO AVOID CONNECTION WITH U.S.
VISIT. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT PAK INVITED NDP CHAIRMAN YI CHOL-SUNG TO BLUE
HOUSE ON MAY 27 AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL-
KWON ON FOLLOWING MORNING TO BRIEF THEM ON WHAT PRESS
IS CALLING "RESULTS OF RECENT HIGH LEVEL ROK/US MEETINGS."
DRP ALSO RECEIVED SIMILAR BRIEFING ON MONDAY, MAY 30. SEMI-
OFFICIAL KOREA HERALD QUOTES "POLITICAL OBSERVERS" AS SAYING
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PRESIDENT IS TREATING NATIONAL SECURITY AND U.S. TROOP
WITHDRAWAL ISSUE ON "SUPRAPARTISAN AND PAN-NATIONAL" BASIS.

2. PRESS HAS GONE INTO FEW DETAILS AS TO WHAT WAS
ACTUALLY SAID. HOWEVER, BLUE HOUSE OFFICIAL, KIM KYONG-WON
AMPLIFIED PUBLIC COMMENTARY FOR AMBASSADOR, EXPLAINING
WHAT PRESIDENT IS TRYING TO DO IN THIS SERIES OF MEETINGS

IS TO BRING EVERYONE ON BOARD TO GET ON WITH JOB AT HAND.
KIM, WHO WAS PRESENT AT MAY 30 MEETING WITH DRP, SAID
ROKG STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND U.S. RATIONALE FOR WITHDRAWAL,
HOWEVER PRESIDENT IS MAKING IT CLEAR TO EVERYONE
THAT IT IS NONETHELESS TIME TO WORK OUT COMPENSATORY ACTIONS
AND TO ENSURE RIGHT STEPS ARE TAKEN. KIM ALSO NOTED KOREANS STILL
HAVE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS, REGARDING WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE,
NAMELY (1) HOW FIRST AND SECOND INCREMENT WILL BE CONFIGURED
AND (2) WHAT FUTURE CONSULTATIONS THERE WILL BE ON THIRD
INCREMENT.

3. ACCORDING MEETING WE HAVE HAD WITH YI CHOL-SUNG,
PRESIDENT ALSO FULLY EXPLAINED TO YI WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING
HABIB/BROWN VISIT AND READ TO YI FROM CONFERENCE MINUTES.
YI HOWEVER, MADE NO MENTION OF PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO GET ON
WITH THE JOB OF DEVELOPING COMPENSATORY MEASURES; RATHER
HE EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT HAD AGREED 100 PERCENT WITH YI'S
OWN OPPOSITION TO WITHDRAWAL AND HAD COMPLIMENTED YI FOR IT.
(COMMENT: WE BELIEVE YI'S EMPHASIS IS SELF-SERVING. KIM KYONG-WON'S
STATEMENT PLUS FACT PRESIDENT READ TO YI FROM THE RECORD
INDICATES THAT PAK WAS ESSENTIALLY MAKING CLEAR TO YI THAT NOW
IS TIME TO GET ON WITH THE JOB.)

4. LOCAL POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ALSO CAME UP IN YI/PAK
MEETING. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S TWO HOUR MEETING WITH
NDP CHAIRMAN YI, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT PRESIDENT
AND NDP CHAIRMAN HAD "AGREED TO MAKE MUTUAL EFFORTS NOT
ONLY FOR BROAD DIALOGUE BUT ALSO FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF (LOCAL) POLITICS." EXPLAINING THIS TO EMBOFF PRIVATELY,
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YI SAID PAK HAS MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS: A. EMERGENCY MEASURE
NO. NINE WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE; TO LIFT IT WOULD OPEN PANDORA'S
BOX OF DISSENT; B. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WOULD OPEN ON JUNE
20, TEN DAYS AFTER CHONGNO-CHUNG DISTRICT BY-ELECTION; C. ASSEMBLY
COULD
REVISE CONTROVERSIAL AND STRICT ELECTION LAW REGULATING
CAMPAIGNING, ETC. D. MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS STILL IN PRISON WOULD
EVENTUALLY BE RELEASED.

5. YI WENT ON TO QUOTE PRESIDENT TO EFFECT THAT U.S.
SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN MYONGDONG CASE AND THAT HE (PAK)
HAD STRESSED THIS DURING HIS SECOND SESSION WITH UNDER
SECRETARY HABIB. WHEN YI "PRESSED PRESIDENT TO RELEASE
PRISONERS," PAK SAID HE WOULD IN TIME BUT TO DO SO NOW,
IN WAKE OF HABIB/BROWN VISIT, WOULD LOOK LIKE CONCESSION TO
AMERICANS. ACCORDING TONGA ILBO PAK ALSO TOLD YI THAT
"IF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS SHOWED REPENTENCE BY SUBMITTING
A PETITION," THEN PAK WOULD RECONSIDER. (COMMENT: KIM KYONG-WON
HAS DRAWN THIS PRESS REPORT SPECIFICALLY TO AMBASSADOR'S

ATTENTION, NOTING THAT IT EMANATED FROM BLUE HOUSE.)

6. NDP ASSEMBLYMAN CONTACTED WERE, IN GENERAL, EBULLIENT OVER PAK/YI SESSION, HAPPY CHAIRMAN YI WAS RECEIVED IN BLUE HOUSE AND, AS KO HUNG-MUN EXPRESSED IT, "PLEASED WITH ADEQUATE TREATMENT (BY PRESIDENT) OF LEADER OF OPPOSITION PARTY."

7. PRESS HAS GIVEN VERY LITTLE COVERAGE TO DATE TO PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH CHONG IL-KWON EXCEPT TO REINFORCE STATEMENTS MADE FOLLOWING YI CHOL-SUNG MEETING. WE WILL CHECK THIS OUT.
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